

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
  - receiving a request on a DNS server from a client for a web page at a first web address, the first web address including a hostname;
  - determining traffic loads of a plurality of mirrored customer web servers each addressable by the requested hostname among a customer's plurality of web servers, each of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers storing the web page;
  - determining a customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers that is appropriate for the request, the customer web server having a traffic load that is optimal over traffic loads of remaining customer web servers from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers according to optimal customer web server selection rules defined on a per domain name basis, allowing for each domain name to be configured independently;
  - determining an IP address of the customer web server;
  - sending the IP address of the customer web server to the client;
  - receiving a request from the client for static content on the web page at a second web address, the second web address specifying a network of caching servers;
  - determining service metrics of a set of caching servers each addressable by the second web address in the network of caching servers, where the network of caching servers does not include the customer's plurality of web servers;
  - wherein a customer is a customer of a service for use of the network of caching servers managed by the service that stores static content for the customer;
  - determining a caching server from the set of caching servers that is appropriate for the request for static content, the caching server having service metrics that are optimal over service metrics of remaining caching servers from the set of caching servers according to optimal caching server selection rules defined on a per domain name basis, allowing for each domain name to be configured independently;
  - determining an IP address of the caching server; and
  - delivering the IP address of the caching server to the client.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining load of caching servers in the network of caching servers;  
wherein the determining the caching server from the network of caching servers that is appropriate for the request step selects a caching server having a latency and a load lower than latency or load of remaining caching servers from the network of caching servers.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining whether the caching server includes the static content;  
determining a customer web server that includes the static content when the caching server does not include the static content;  
retrieving the static content from the customer web server that includes the static content; and  
storing the static content from the customer web server in the caching server.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the determining the customer server that includes the static content step comprises:

determining traffic loads of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers, each of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers storing the static content; and  
determining a second customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers that is appropriate for the request, the second customer web server having a traffic load lower than traffic loads of remaining customer web servers from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein retrieving the static content from the customer web server step comprises:

determining an IP address of the second customer web server; and  
requesting the static content from the second customer web server at the second customer web server IP address.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the network of caching servers includes a domain name server.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the request from the client for the web page is transferred from a first domain name server;  
wherein the network of caching servers includes a second domain name server; and  
wherein the second domain name server determines the customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers.
8. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
receiving a first request on a DNS server from a client DNS server to resolve a first domain name, the client DNS server receiving a request from a client of a web page address that includes the first domain name;  
determining load measurements of a plurality of mirrored customer web servers each addressable by the first domain name among a customer's plurality of web servers, each of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers addressable by the first domain name, and each of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers configured to service the request from the client;  
determining a customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers, the customer web server having a traffic load that is optimal over traffic loads of other customer web servers from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers according to optimal customer web server selection rules defined on a per domain name basis, allowing for each domain name to be configured independently;  
determining an IP address of the customer web server;  
providing the IP address of the customer web server to the client DNS server;  
receiving a second request from the client DNS server to resolve a second domain name, the client DNS server receiving a request from the client of a uniform resource locator

obtained from the web page associated with the web page address that includes the second domain name;

    determining performance metric measurements of a set of caching servers each addressable by the second domain name in a network of caching servers, where the network of caching servers does not include the customer's plurality of web servers;

    wherein a customer is a customer of a service for use of the network of caching servers managed by the service that store static content for the customer;

    determining a caching server from the set of caching servers, the caching server having

    performance metrics that are optimal over performance metrics of other caching servers from the set of caching servers, according to optimal caching server selection rules defined on a per domain name basis, allowing for each domain name to be configured independently; and

    delivering an IP address of the caching server to the client DNS server.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the load measurements comprise latency measurements.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the performance metric measurements comprise any of: load CPU and memory measurements, HTTP response measurements, and FTP response measurements.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

    in response to receiving the uniform resource locator request at the caching server, determining whether the caching server includes the data;

    retrieving data from a second customer web server from the mirrored customer web servers when the caching server does not include the data; and

    storing the data within the caching server.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein retrieving data from the second customer web server step comprises:

determining the second customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers, the second customer web server having a traffic load lower than traffic loads of remaining customer web servers from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers; and retrieving the data from the second customer web server.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

receiving a first request from a second client DNS server to resolve a third domain name, the second client DNS server receiving a request from a second client of a second web page address that includes the third domain name;

determining load measurements of a plurality of second mirrored customer web servers each addressable by the third domain name among a customer's plurality of web servers, and each of the plurality of second mirrored customer web servers storing data configured to service the request from the second client;

determining a second customer web server from the plurality of second mirrored customer web servers, the second customer web server having a traffic load lower than traffic loads of other second customer web servers from the plurality of second mirrored customer web servers;

determining an IP address of the second customer web server; and

providing the IP address of the second customer web server to the second client DNS server.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

receiving a second request from the second client DNS server to resolve the second domain name, the second client DNS server receiving a request from the second client of a second uniform resource locator that includes the second domain name;

determining performance metric measurements of the set of caching servers;

determining a second caching server from the set of caching servers, the second caching server having performance metrics lower than performance metrics of other caching servers from the set of caching servers; and

delivering an IP address of the second caching server to the second client DNS server.

15.—20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a DNS server, comprising at least a processor and a memory, that receives a request from a client for a web page at a first web address, the first web address including a hostname;

a traffic load logic that determines traffic loads of a plurality of mirrored customer web servers each addressable by the requested hostname among a customer's plurality of web servers, each of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers storing the web page;

a customer web server selection logic that determines a customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers that is appropriate for the request, the customer web server having a traffic load that is optimal over traffic loads of remaining customer web servers from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers according to optimal customer web server selection rules defined on a per domain name basis, allowing for each domain name to be configured independently;

an IP address logic that determines an IP address of the customer web server;

a request directing logic that directs the request from the client to the customer web server;

a request receiving logic that receives a request from the client for static content on the web page at a second web address, the second web address including the hostname;

a service metric logic that determines service metrics of a set of caching servers each addressable by the requested hostname in a network of caching servers, where the network of caching servers does not include the customer's plurality of web servers;

wherein a customer is a customer of a service for use of the network of caching servers managed by the service that store static content for the customer;

a caching server selection logic that determines a caching server from the set of caching servers that is appropriate for the request for static content, the caching server having service metrics that are optimal over service metrics of remaining caching servers from the

network of caching servers according to optimal caching server selection rules defined on a per domain name basis, allowing for each domain name to be configured independently;

a caching server IP address determining logic that determines an IP address of the caching server; and

a caching server IP address delivery logic that delivers the IP address of the caching server to the client.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

a caching server load determination subsystem-logic that determines a load of caching servers in the set of caching servers;

wherein the caching server load determination subsystem-logic selects a caching server having a latency and a load lower than latency or load of remaining caching servers from the set of caching servers.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

a caching server content determination subsystem-logic that determines whether the caching server includes the static content;

a customer web server content determination subsystem-logic that determines a customer web server that includes the static content when the caching server does not include the static content;

a customer web server content retrieval subsystem-logic that retrieves the static content from the customer web server that includes the static content; and

a caching server content storage subsystem-logic that stores the static content from the customer web server in the caching server.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the customer web server content determination subsystem-logic comprises:

a customer web server traffic load determination subsystem-logic that determines traffic loads of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers, each of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers storing the static content; and

a secondary customer web server selection subsystem-logic that determines a second customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers that is appropriate for the request, the second customer web server having a traffic load lower than traffic loads of remaining customer web servers from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the customer web server content retrieval subsystem-logic comprises:

a secondary customer web server IP address determination subsystem-logic that determines an IP address of the second customer web server; and

a secondary server content requesting subsystem-logic that requests the static content from the second customer web server at the second customer web server IP address.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the network of caching servers

includes a domain name server.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the client for the web page is transferred from a first domain name server; wherein the network of caching servers includes a second domain name server; and wherein the second domain name server determines the customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a DNS server, comprising at least a processor and a memory, that receives a first request from a client DNS server to resolve a first domain name, the client DNS server receiving a request from a client of a web page address that includes the first domain name;

a traffic load logic that determines load measurements of a plurality of mirrored customer web servers each addressable by the first domain name among a customer's plurality of web servers, and each of the plurality of mirrored customer web servers configured to service the request from the client;

a customer web server selection logic that determines a customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers, the customer web server having a traffic load that is optimal over traffic loads of other customer web servers from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers according to optimal customer web server selection rules defined on a per domain name basis, allowing for each domain name to be configured independently;

an IP address logic that determines an IP address of the customer web server; wherein the IP address logic sends the IP address of the customer web server to the client DNS server;

wherein the DNS server receives a second request from the client DNS server to resolve a second domain name, the client DNS server receiving a request from the client of a uniform resource locator obtained from the web page associated with the web page address that includes the second domain name;

a caching server performance metric logic that determines performance metric measurements of a set of caching servers each addressable by the second domain name in a network of caching servers, where the network of caching servers does not include the customer's plurality of web servers;

wherein a customer is a customer of a service for use of the network of caching servers managed by the service that store static content for the customer;

a caching server selection logic that determines a caching server from the set of caching servers, the caching server having performance metrics that is-are optimal over performance metrics of other caching servers from the set of caching servers according to optimal caching server selection rules defined on a per domain name basis, allowing for each domain name to be configured independently; and

a caching server selection logic that delivers an IP address of the caching server to the client DNS server.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the load measurements comprise latency measurements.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the performance metric measurements comprise any of: load CPU and memory measurements, HTTP response measurements, and FTP response measurements.
31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising:
- a caching server data determination subsystem-logic that, in response to receiving the uniform resource locator request at the caching server, determines whether the caching server includes the data;
  - a second customer web server data retrieval subsystem-logic that retrieves data from a second customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers when the caching server does not include the data; and
  - a caching server data storing subsystem-logic that stores the data within the caching server.
32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the second customer web server data retrieval subsystem-logic comprises:
- a second customer web server determining subsystem-logic that determines the second customer web server from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers, the second customer web server having a traffic load lower than traffic loads of remaining customer web servers from the plurality of mirrored customer web servers; and
  - a second customer web server data retrieval subsystem-logic that retrieves the data from the second customer web server.
33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28:
- wherein the DNS server receives a first request from a second client DNS server to resolve a third domain name, the second client DNS server receiving a request from a second client of a second web page address that includes the third domain name;
  - wherein the traffic load logic subsystem determines load measurements of a plurality of second mirrored customer web servers each addressable by the third domain name among a

customer's plurality of web servers, and each of the plurality of second mirrored customer web servers storing data configured to service the request from the second client;

wherein the customer web server selection logic subsystem determines a second customer web server from the plurality of second mirrored customer web servers, the second customer web server having a traffic load lower than traffic loads of other second customer web servers from the plurality of second mirrored customer web servers;

wherein the IP address subsystem logic determines an IP address of the second customer web server; and

wherein the IP address subsystem logic sends the IP address of the second customer web server to the second client DNS server.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the DNS server receives a second request from the second client DNS server to resolve the second domain name, the second client DNS server receiving a request from the second client of a second uniform resource locator that includes the second domain name;

wherein the caching server performance metric subsystem logic determines performance metric measurements of the set of caching servers;

wherein the caching server selection subsystem logic determines a second caching server from the set of caching servers, the second caching server having performance metrics lower than performance metrics of other caching servers from the set of caching servers; and

wherein the caching server selection subsystem logic delivers an IP address of the second caching server to the second client DNS server.